

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15  
CU-04 MCT-01 ACDA-10 EUR-12 /107 W  
----- 110215 /71

R 131425Z DEC 76  
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8539  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
USMISSION USUN

UNCLAS JERUSALEM 1719  
E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINS, IS, JO  
SUBJECT: CONTINUED UNREST ON THE WEST BANK AND RELATED POLITICAL  
ACTIVITIES

REF: JERUSALEM 1698, JERUSALEM 1706

1. STUDENTS IN NABLUS AND RAMALLAH STAGED LARGE DEMONSTRATIONS  
DEC 13 TO PROTEST THE COLLECTION OF THE VALUE ADDED TAX  
(VAT), EXPROPRIATIONS OF LAND AND CONTINUED ISRAELI  
OCCUPATION OF THE WEST BANK.

2. DEMONSTRATIONS IN RAMALLAH WERE THE FIRST SIGNIFICANT  
ONES THERE IN OVER A MONTH. A JOURNALIST ON THE SCENE TOLD  
CONGEN THAT DEMONSTRATORS HAD MANAGED TO CUT FOR A SHORT TIME  
JERUSALEM-NABLUS HIGHWAY AT KALANDIA AND SET TIRES AFIRE IN  
RAMALLAH WHERE ISRAELI SECURITY FORCES USED TEAR GAS TO  
DISPERSE THE CROWDS. DESPITE THE DISORDER, SHOPS AND BUSINESSES  
WERE OPEN.

3. IN NABLUS, ISRAELI SECURITY FORCES IMPOSED BRIEF CURFEWS ON  
PARTS OF THE CITY BOTH DEC 11 AND 12 FOLLOWING DEMONSTRATIONS,  
ACCORDING TO MEDIA REPORTS. FIFTEEN DEMONSTRATORS WERE REPORTEDLY  
ARRESTED. NEVERTHELESS, DEMONSTRATIONS RESUMED DEC 13.

4. COMMENT: WHILE CITY FATHERS FUMBLE IN THEIR ATTEMPT TO  
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RESPOND EFFECTIVELY TO ISRAELI PROVOCATIONS SUCH AS THE VAT

AND LAND SEIZURES, THE INITIATIVE HAS ONCE AGAIN PASSED INTO THE HANDS OF THE YOUNGSTERS. CURRENT DEMONSTRATIONS SHOULD PROVIDE A GOOD TEST OF THE IDF'S ABILITY TO CONTAIN PROTESTS WITHOUT USING LETHAL FORCE. SO FAR, SO GOOD.

5. ON THE POLITICAL FRONT, WEST BANKERS ARE WATCHING CLOSELY THE PENDING MEETING OF THE PLO CENTRAL COMMITTEE IN DAMASCUS. EAST JERUSALEM DAILY AL-QUDS OF DEC 12 APPEALED FOR MEETING TO PUT ASIDE DISAGREEMENTS AND ACHIEVE UNITY FOR PALESTINIAN CAUSE. IT GOES ON TO CALL FOR WEST BANK PARTICIPATION IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND SUGGESTS THAT ARAB COUNTRIES AND PLO REQUEST U.S. AND USSR TO INVITE LOCAL LEADERS FROM WEST BANK AND GAZA TO PARTICIPATE IN RESUMED CONFERENCE. SUBSEQUENTLY ISRAEL RADIO REPORTS THAT PM RABIN HAS DECLARED THAT GOI WOULD NOT OBJECT TO PARTICIPATION OF WEST BANK MAYORS AS PART OF JORDANIAN DELEGATION IN RESUMED GENEVA CONFERENCE.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL STABILITY, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976JERUSA01719  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760459-0394  
**From:** JERUSALEM  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Line Count:** 78  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 JERUSALEM 1698, 76 JERUSALEM 1706  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** schwenja  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10 JUN 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <17 AUG 2004 by schwenja>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CONTINUED UNREST ON THE WEST BANK AND RELATED POLITICAL ACTIVITIES  
**TAGS:** PINS, PORS, IS, JO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006